

Remarks

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 6 and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-18 remain in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims as now presented is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Curren (GB 2,124,864). Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 6 therein. Therefore, the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7-10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Curren (GB 2,124,864). Independent claim 7 has been amended in a manner similar to that of amended claim 1, so as to incorporate the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner with respect to previous claim 6. As such, independent claim 7 as amended, and all claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 should accordingly be withdrawn.

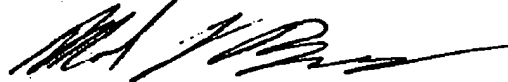
Claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Curren '864 in view of Sasaki et al. (U.S. 4,630,634). For the reasons stated above, claims

11-15, which depend upon amended claim 7, are believed to be allowable in view of the cited prior art, whether taken alone or in combination. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 should accordingly be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, the claims as amended are believed to be unobvious and patentable over the cited prior art, whether taken alone or in combination. Applicant therefore submits that the claims as now presented are allowable on the merits. An early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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